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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Joseph A. Winker, III

Serial No. 10/016,176

Filing Date: October 30, 2001

Examiner: Hoa V. Le

For: Method and Apparatus for Disinfecting Biosolids Art Unit: 1752

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF OCTOBER 6, 2003

November 6, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of October 6, 2003, kindly note the following:

The Applicant hereby amends his Claims by electing claims 17 – 31 for further examination, withdrawing from consideration Claims 1 – 10 and 11 – 16.

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. The examiner noted that claims 1 – 31 were subject to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121. It was thought that Groups I and II, Claims 1 – 10 and 11 – 16, were drawn to a single invented material, classified in class 422, subclass 299. It was thought that Group III, Claims 17 – 31, were drawn to a method, classified in class 422, subclass 3. It was also thought that the inventions in each Group are distinct and that restriction is proper because different searches would be required for each group. It was thought that the process of Group I and Group II could be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand and it was thought that the apparatus of Group I and II could be used to practice another and materially different process, such as, boiling or microwave such solid which would be obtained about the same sterilizing result.

Pursuant to the requirement for restriction, the Applicant hereby elect for further examination, without traverse, the invention construed by the Examiner to be set forth in Group III, Claims 17 – 31 and hereby withdraws from consideration Claims 1 – 10 and 11 – 16.

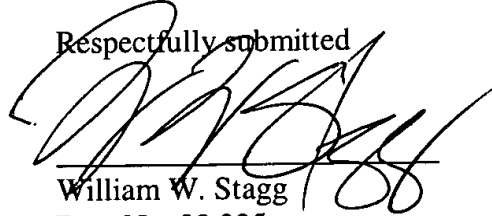
Applicant: Joseph A. Winkler, III

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In consideration of the foregoing response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Application be amended as set forth herein, and that claims 17 – 31 be placed in line for examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Stagg', is written over a horizontal line.

William W. Stagg

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